

means for storing identifying data associated with said tag, RF receiver means powered by said supply means for processing an RF signal, and RF transmitter means for transmitting identifying data stored in said memory means in response to the receipt by said RF receiver means of an RF signal having a request encoded therein, said at least one electronic identification tag provided with a discrete identification number;

1 (c) interrogation means for searching said identification number of said at least one electronic identification tag, said interrogation means comprising

2 i. means provided in said at least one portal for transmitting a first interrogation signal to said at least one electronic identification tag, said first interrogation signal having a request encoded therein seeking a response from each of said at least one electronic identification [tag] tags having an identification number within a first desired address range;

2 ii. means provided in said at least one electronic identification tag for processing said first interrogation signal and responding to said first interrogation signal if the identification number of said at least one electronic identification tag is within said desired address range;

2 iii. means for selecting a second desired address range when more than one response to said first interrogation

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signal is received from said at least one electronic identification tag; and

iv. means for transmitting a second interrogation signal, said second interrogation signal having a request encoded therein seeking a response from each of said at least one electronic identification tags having an identification number within said second desired address range.

q 5. (Twice Amended) An electronic identification tag interrogation system comprising:

(a) at least one portal having transmitter means for providing an RF signal and receiver means for responding to an RF tag signal having identifying data encoded therein;

(b) at least one electronic identification tag having supply means for providing electrical power to said tag, memory means for storing identifying data associated with said tag, RF receiver means powered by said supply means for processing an RF signal, and RF transmitter means for transmitting identifying data stored in said memory means in response to the receipt by said RF receiver means of an RF signal having a request encoded therein, said at least one electronic identification tag provided with a discrete identification number;

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B (c) interrogation means for searching said identification number of said at least one electronic identification tag;

(d) means provided on said at least one portal for acknowledging receipt of a single response from said at least one electronic identification tag; and

(e) means for suppressing further replies from said [aknowledged] acknowledged electronic identification tag in response to further interrogation signals, wherein said means for suppressing further replies comprises a signal transmitted by said portal and received by said electronic identification tag instructing said electronic identification tag not to respond to further interrogation signals.

38. (Amended) The electronic identification system of claim 2 wherein said means for suppressing further replies comprises means for shifting said electronic identification tag to a lower power consumption mode in which said means for processing said first interrogation signal [and said means for processing said second interrogation signal are] is turned off.

510. (Twice Amended) The electronic identification system of claim 9 wherein said means for enabling replies further comprises means for periodically

detecting [the presence of] whether an interrogation signal is present.

6¹¹. (Twice Amended) The electronic identification system of claim 10 wherein said RF receiving means and said means for processing said first interrogation signal and said means for processing said second interrogation signal are ⁵ turned on when said means for periodically detecting [the presence of] whether an interrogation signal is present initially detects an absence of an interrogation signal and thereafter detects the presence of an interrogation signal.

16. (Twice Amended) An electronic identification tag interrogation method comprising the steps of:

- | p1 providing at least two electronic identification tags with discrete identification numbers;
- | p1 transmitting a request from a portal for all said at least two identification tags having an identification number within a desired address range to respond;
- | p1 continuously bisecting said desired address range until only one of said at least two identification tags responds to said request;
- | p1 acknowledging said one of said at least two identification tags;

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pl instructing said acknowledged tag to suppress responding to further interrogation requests until all remaining said at least two electronic identification tags are acknowledged; and

pl shifting said acknowledged tag to a lower power mode in which it periodically detects whether an [absence of] ~~an~~ interrogation signal is ~~present~~.

Please cancel claim 17.

R E M A R K S

In the Office Action dated January 6, 1993, the Examiner approved the proposed additional drawing sheet with Figures 2-4. As a result, the Examiner objected to the disclosure for informalities relating to the addition of these figures. By this Amendment, applicants have amended the drawing descriptions and have amended the description of the preferred embodiments to include discussion of the new figures.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-13 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. The Examiner allowed claims 14-15. By this Amendment, the applicants have adopted the proposed changes suggested by the Examiner for claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 16. Applicants have cancelled claim